

39636 to 39660—Continued.

39656. RUBIA CORDIFOLIA L. Rubiaceæ.**Indian madder.**

An herbaceous creeper with perennial roots which is met with in the hilly districts of India from the northwest Himalayas eastward and southward to Ceylon. The *Manjit root* or *East Indian madder* is obtained for the most part from this species and is much employed by the natives of India for dyeing coarse cotton fabric or the threads from which it is woven various shades of scarlet, coffee brown, or mauve. The East Indian madder of commerce consists of a short stalk, from which numerous cylindrical roots about the size of a quill diverge. These are covered with a thin brownish pulp, which peels off in flakes, disclosing a red-brown bark marked by longitudinal furrows. Many different methods are used for dyeing with this madder, a short account of which may be found in Watt, *Dictionary of the Economic Products of India*.

39657. RUBUS CALYCINUS Wallich. Rosaceæ.

"A species native to the eastern and central temperate Himalayas and found in Sikkim as high as 9,000 feet above the sea and in Bhutan as high as 8,500 feet. This slender prickled species has a creeping stem which sometimes reaches 3 feet. The leaves are 1 to 3 inches in diameter and sometimes hairy beneath. The solitary or twin flowers are 1 inch in diameter and borne on erect 1 to 2 leaved shoots. This is very near a Philippine Island species, which has smaller flowers." (*Hooker, Flora of British India.*)

39658. RUBUS ROSAEFOLIUS Smith. Rosaceæ.

"A small shrub found in the temperate Himalayas from Kumaon to Sikkim at altitudes between 5,000 and 7,000 feet. It occurs also in the Khasi Hills and on the Hills of Ava and Martaban, and is distributed to Java. It is naturalized and cultivated in the Tropics and warm temperate regions, and in cultivation often has double flowers. The fruit is large, red, edible, and is frequently sold in Darjiling markets." (*Watt, Dictionary of the Economic Products of India.*)

39659. SENECIO SCANDENS Hamilton. Asteraceæ.

See S. P. I. No. 39080 for previous introduction.

39660. SOLANUM VERBASCIFOLIUM L. Solanaceæ.

"A shrub or small tree frequently met with throughout India in the tropical and subtropical regions and distributed to southeastern Asia, Malay, North Australia, and the tropical Americas. Used medicinally by the natives, but its properties are unimportant. In southern India it is cultivated for its fruit, which is eaten in curries. The wood is light yellow in color and of soft texture." (*Watt, Dictionary of the Economic Products of India.*)

39661. COMMELINA SIKKIMENSIS C. B. Clarke. Commelinaceæ.

From Sibpur, near Calcutta, India. Presented by the superintendent, Royal Botanic Garden. Received December 30, 1914.

A species occurring in the Himalayas from Sikkim to Assam at altitudes ranging from 2,000 to 4,000 feet.